

**Amendments to the Claims:**

1. **(Currently amended)** A method of manufacturing an electrode for an alkaline storage battery, said method including a process of manufacturing a porous substrate, said process comprising:

making a urethane sponge by foaming a urethane resin composition;

reducing a void rate of said urethane sponge;

after said reducing of the void rate of said urethane sponge, plating said urethane sponge with nickel to form nickel-plated urethane sponge; and

firing said urethane sponge ~~to remove~~ to obtain a porous metal plate by removing urethane resin sponge;

wherein said ~~process includes reduction of a~~ reducing of the void rate of said urethane sponge comprises coating polyethylene terephthalate on said urethane sponge.

Claim 2 **(Cancelled)**

3. **(Currently amended)** The method of ~~manufacturing an electrode for alkaline storage battery as defined in Claim 1, wherein said reduction of the void rate is achieved by said step of coating, coating of~~ said polyethylene terephthalate ~~being coated on said urethane resin matrix sponge is carried out~~ such that said polyethylene terephthalate accounts for 50 to 100 % of a sectional area of said urethane ~~resin of said urethane~~ sponge perpendicular to a thickness direction of said urethane sponge.

4. **(Currently amended)** The method of ~~manufacturing an electrode for alkaline storage battery as defined in Claim 2~~ 1, wherein said porous metal plate is made to be 0.2 to 0.8 mm thick.

5. **(Currently amended)** The method of ~~manufacturing an electrode for alkaline storage battery as defined in Claim 2-1~~, further comprising ~~a step of~~, after obtaining said porous metal plate, impregnating an active material in said porous metal plate and drying ~~after said process of manufacturing the porous metal plate~~, said active material mainly consisting of nickel hydroxide.

Claims 6-9 **(Cancelled)**

10. **(Currently amended)** A method of ~~manufacturing an electrode for alkaline storage battery~~, said method including a process of manufacturing a porous metal plate Claim 1, ~~said process further~~ comprising:

~~making a urethane sponge by foaming urethane resin composition;~~  
—————after said making of said urethane sponge, peeling said urethane sponge to form said urethane sponge in a first thickness by using a foam cutting machine; and  
~~plating said urethane sponge with nickel; and~~  
—————firing said urethane sponge to remove urethane resin;  
—————wherein said process includes after said peeling of said urethane sponge has been carried out or after both said peeling and said plating of said urethane sponge have been carried out, thinning of said urethane sponge to form said urethane sponge in a second thickness that is thinner than said first thickness.

11. **(Currently amended)** The method of ~~manufacturing an electrode for alkaline storage battery as defined in Claim 10~~, wherein said thinning is achieved by a step of of said urethane sponge comprises grinding said urethane sponge.

12. **(Currently amended)** The method of ~~manufacturing an electrode for alkaline storage battery as defined in Claim 11~~, wherein ~~a~~ said first thickness of said urethane sponge is ~~made to~~ 1.4 to 2.0 mm in ~~said step of peeling~~.

13. **(Currently amended)** The method of ~~manufacturing an electrode for alkaline storage battery as defined in Claim 11~~, wherein ~~a~~ said second thickness of said urethane sponge is ~~made to~~ 0.5 mm to 1.0 mm in ~~said step of grinding~~.

14. **(Currently amended)** The method of ~~manufacturing an electrode for alkaline storage battery as defined in Claim 11~~, wherein a thickness of said porous metal plate is made to be 0.2 mm to 0.8 mm.

15. **(Currently amended)** The method of ~~manufacturing an electrode for alkaline storage battery as defined in Claim 11~~, further comprising ~~a step of~~, after obtaining said porous metal plate, impregnating an active material in said porous metal plate and drying ~~after said process of manufacturing the porous metal plate~~, said active material mainly consisting of nickel hydroxide.

16. **(Currently amended)** The method of ~~manufacturing an electrode for alkaline storage battery as defined in Claim 10~~, wherein said thinning is ~~achieved by a step of~~ said urethane sponge comprises rolling the urethane sponge using a roll press having top and bottom rollers, and at least one of said top and bottom rollers is heated.

17. **(Currently amended)** The method of ~~manufacturing an electrode for alkaline storage battery as defined in Claim 16~~, wherein ~~a~~ said first thickness of said urethane sponge is ~~made to~~ 1.4 to 2.0 mm in ~~said step of peeling~~.

18. **(Currently amended)** The method of ~~manufacturing an electrode for alkaline storage battery as defined in Claim 16~~, wherein ~~a~~ said second thickness of said urethane sponge is ~~rolled to~~ 0.5 to 1.0 mm ~~in said step of rolling~~.

19. **(Currently amended)** The method of ~~manufacturing an electrode for alkaline storage battery as defined in Claim 16~~, wherein a thickness of said porous metal plate is made to be 0.2 to 0.8 mm.

20. **(Currently amended)** The method of ~~manufacturing an electrode for alkaline storage battery as defined in Claim 16~~, wherein said at least one of the top and bottom rollers is heated to 200 to 400 °C.

21. **(Currently amended)** The method of ~~manufacturing an electrode for alkaline storage battery as defined in Claim 16~~ 16, further comprising ~~a step of~~, after obtaining said porous metal plate, impregnating an active material in said porous metal plate and drying ~~after said process of manufacturing the porous metal plate~~, said active material mainly consisting of nickel hydroxide.